UNITED NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/934
S/1997/491
25 June 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Agenda item 58
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 25 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 24 June 1997, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Osman Ertuğ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

97-17379 (E) 250697

/...

ANNEX

Letter dated 24 June 1997 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to respond to a letter dated 19 June 1997 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations concerning the recent visit to ports in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus by ships belonging to the Turkish Navy (A/51/928-S/1997/476).

I wish to stress, in this connection, that any visit by ships of the Turkish Navy to Turkish Cypriot ports is a matter which concerns the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and Turkey, as two sovereign, independent States which recognize each other. The Greek Cypriot administration of Southern Cyprus has no say in this matter, as it has no control or jurisdiction over the territorial waters, land or airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

As far as the military and political implications of the matter are concerned, the allegations made by the Greek Cypriot side are clearly unwarranted and totally hypocritical. The following list of visits to Southern Cyprus by warships of the Greek Navy in the last three years will amply demonstrate this point:

Greek warships visiting Greek Cypriot ports:

Name(s) of ship(s)	Date(s) of visit	Port of call
Aris	7-10 June 1997	Larnaca
Samos	20-23 February 1997	Vasiliko
Two submarines (names unknown)	30 January 1997	Limassol
Warship (name unknown)	17 January 1997	Vasiliko
Warship (name unknown)	12 January 1997	Limassol
Lascos and Simitopulos	9-13 October 1996	Limassol
Poseidon (submarine)	9-13 October 1996	Larnaca
Themistokleus and Aegean	9-13 October 1996	Larnaca
Samos	1-3 September 1996	Limassol
Aris	13-18 August 1996	Limassol
Samos	23 July 1996	Vasiliko
Adrias	11 October 1994	Larnaca

Greek warships participating in exercises code-named, respectively, "Nikiforos" and "Toxotis", and entering Greek Cypriot territorial waters:

Name(s) of ship(s)	Date(s) and/or name of military exercises
Aegean and Thrace	6-8 May 1996
Elli	1 July 1996
Limnos	Toxotis-96
Adrias	Nikiforos-95
Two warships (names unknown)	Toxotis-95
Adrias and two submarines (names unknown)	Nikiforos-94

Furthermore, in the framework of the so-called "joint defence doctrine" between Southern Cyprus and Greece, the Greek Cypriot administration is constructing a naval base for Greece at Limassol, in addition to an air force base at Paphos. As is well known, the Greek Cypriot side has also purchased the sophisticated S-300 missile system from the Russian Federation, as part of its campaign of militarization, on which it is spending over $2 million per day.

In view of the above, the Greek Cypriot allegations in regard to visits by Turkish ships to ports within the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus clearly constitute another instance of the campaign of propaganda being carried out by the other side without any regard to the need for the suspension of such harmful rhetoric, particularly on the eve of the upcoming direct talks between the two leaders in New York, and the creation of an atmosphere conducive to progress towards a viable and just settlement.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus